On Convulsions
and
On the Epilepsy

V are general and local, and like Palsy are derived from the brain, the spinal marrow, and from affections of the muscles remote from them both. They depend upon a less force of the same causes which produce palsy. Like palsy they may be divided into cephalic - ~~vertebral~~ spinal external and internal, spinal and muscular - the last is when ~~it~~ they appears in ~~convulsions in~~ the ~~eyelids~~ eyes ~~lips - hands~~, mouth, tongue - ~~an~~ lower jaw, and upper and lower extremities. They have been divided into clonic & tonic. The former are alternated with relaxation, the latter are constant. They are sometimes both clonic and tonic as in the Tetanus. I shall make a few remarks upon each of them. ~~as~~ and first let us attend to ~~such~~ those general convulsions ~~as are~~ which I have called cephalic, & which are derived from the brain.

upon Convulsions & Epilepsy.

Convulsions

~~A Case~~ elapsed Convulsions with Epilepsy because I believe them to be as much the same disease as an ephemeral fever and a protracted intermittent ~~fever~~

They ~~[illegible]~~ are transient, and often appear but once in the course of a life. This is more generally the case when they ~~appear~~ are the symptoms of a primary fever as small pox - measles the fever from dentition & hooping cough. They ~~yield to~~ grow and then occur towards the close of pregnancy, and when relieved by copious V.S: they seldom ~~[illegible]~~ occur again in any subsequent period of life. - They yield to the common remedies of the diseases of which they are symptoms,

V
a
a
a
D
w
b
a
b
a

particularly to US – cold air – & cold water when the System is excited, and after it is reduced, to ~~[illegible]~~ the warm Bath, applied generally, or partially, Laudanum and stimulating applications to the limbs, neck and head. —

When these Convulsions lose their transient or ephemeral character, and occur daily, weekly, monthly, or less or more frequently, they acquire the name of Epilepsy.

Its ~~has~~ name imports one of its Symptoms – that is falling down – hence it has been called "the falling Sickness". It has likewise been called "morbus comitialis" from its occurring sometimes in public companies. In superstitious ages it had a third name that is "morbus Sacer" from its being supposed ~~[illegible]~~ persons

When a young man
I for reading the tragedy of Richard the 3:
I ~~have often been~~ was much struck with his ex=
=clamation ~~of the royal monarch~~
when thrown from his horse in battle,
and thereby placed in danger of falling
into the hands of his enemies. "a
horse - a horse - a kingdom for a
horse" cried the unfortunate monarch.
In like manner - quite ~~[illegible]~~ in ente=
=ring upon the subject of Epilepsy, I feel
as if I had fallen from my Chair, and
in my prostrate situation, I feel disposed to
cry out,

were afflicted with it not by ordinary, natural causes, but by such as were supernatural. —

In entering upon the consideration of this disease, I feel ~~disposed to cry out~~ ~~with~~ like King Richard who when dismounted in battle cried out, "A horse - a horse - a kingdom for a horse". In like manner I feel disposed to begin my lecture upon Epilepsy by saying "a remedy! - a remedy! - a kingdom for a remedy for ~~it~~ Epilepsy! After all that I have collected from reading, ~~and~~ observation and reflection upon it I am forced publickly to acknowledge I ~~cannot~~ am unable to cure it, and of course I cannot teach you how to cure it. But I will not abandon it as incurable disease. I believe it is

induced by preternatural sensibility or irritability, or by both constituting what is called mobility, or a a high degree of excitability. It may be considered as a higher grade of that form of Hysteria which occurs in violent paroxysms. Its predisposing cause is the same. It differs from it in this predisposition being more ~~partial~~ general, that is in affecting the blood vessels and the brain. —

not so, and that a cure exists in the lowest of time, ~~and~~ for it as certainly as I know ~~the~~ Bark to be the Remedy for intermitting fevers.

I shall deliver to you the most important facts I have been able to collect upon the subject of this disease, and accompany them with some ~~observations~~ principles that I hope will lead you to treat it with more success than I have done.

I shall begin by remarking that its ~~predisposing~~ cause is ~~remote~~ debility. This debility instead of being confined as in fevers, to the blood vessels, extends to the nerves and muscles, ~~but not to the brain~~. hence the facility with which they ~~have formed~~ are excited into morbid

or convulsive Actions. ~~and why the~~ The brain partakes of this debility in a less degree than the muscles & nerves, and hence its prompt reaction. It is this reaction which ~~constitutes~~ induces the convulsions. When this reaction does not take place, ~~no so~~ the nerves ~~&~~ ~~muscles~~ are insensible & the muscles without motion. This state of the brain, nerves & muscles constitutes Apoplexy. —

It affects persons of all ages from Childhood to the 75th year of life. ~~The~~ It generally begins in infancy or Childhood. The intervals between the fits are from 4 hours to 12 months. They occur oftener in the night than at any other time,

U
a
2
2
D
u
b
c
c
those
whi

and from an obvious reason, viz the greater pressure of the brain in sleep, and in a recumbent posture than in the waking state, or in an erect posture of the body. They often continue with but but little changes until about the 50th year of life, at which time they terminate in death by apoplexy, or acute or chronic in complete paralysis. But they sometimes they wear away at that period of life and come the spend in an unimpaired state. I have heard of two instances in which this was the case. The persons lived afterwards to be above 80 years of age. One of them was an eminent mathematician. The fits often impair the faculties of the mind, particularly the memory. I had a boy in the month of Feb. 1841 in our hospital of 12 years of age of the name of Inglefelt in whom the moral

Those
who

faculties are so much affected as to dispose him to every kind of mischief and wickedness of which he is capable. ~~[illegible]~~ There is a young woman in the hospital in whom the disease has produced a similar perversion of the moral faculties. But there are cases upon record in which Epilepsy has increased the strength of all the intellectual faculties. Cæsar and Mahomed were both ~~afflicted~~ afflicted with Epilepsy. Bonaparte labours under a form of it. ~~The Humanity~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Humanity has reason to deplore the uncommon elevation of the intellects of ~~[illegible]~~ all of those disturbers of the peace & happiness of the world. Even the moral faculties have been exalted by this

U
a
2
2
D
u
b
Those
which

of this I shall mention a striking instance presently.

disease. [Of this, the Revd Mr Walles lately of Connecticut exhibited a remarkable proof in the greater sublimity and eloquence of his prayers & sermons just before an attack of Epilepsy than at any other time.]

I said formerly that this disease alternated with apoplexy, especially in drunkards. It is likewise sometimes combined with it. I have seen several instances in our hospital in which it has alternated with madness.

~~The fits of Epilepsy~~

v ~~Bucking~~ I have lately met with a source of injury to the brain from what is called Bucking, that is two men contending like bucks ~~who clash heads~~ with each ~~leg~~ with their heads only. I have lost a patient with Epilepsy from this cause.

It a great number of persons having breathed. hence it often occurs in crowded rooms ~~and~~ or in large companies. ~~and~~

The remote causes of Epilepsy are ~~treat~~ corporeal and mental. The corporeal are general & sympathetic. The ~~general~~ general act directly or indirectly upon the brain & nervous system. The direct causes are 1 Lesions & fractures of the Scull — the interval between the lesion & fracture is from 1 month to 8 years. 2 Tumors ~~in the~~ and other disorders ~~in the~~ ~~adjoining~~ brain & 3 malconformation. 4 certain odors & 5 Air rendered azotic by vitiation. The corporeal causes which act indirectly upon the brain are 1. repelled eruptions & sores of all kinds also tumors. 2 retained excretions ~~3 Flapping in the open~~ ~~Air~~ particularly the menses — Lochia — hemorrhoids — and even Diarrhoea. ~~2 suppressed~~ ~~artificial discharges such as~~ 3 Flapping in the open Air. 4 Excess in venery — 5 ovariotomy. 6 ~~The causes which act sympathetically~~ great bodily exercise. — 7 Hemorrhages. 8 poisons in ~~are diseases or disorders~~ The causes which act sympathetically are diseases & disorders in every part of the body — 2 Aliments ~~of an~~ offensive by their quantity & quality. the stomach. including decayed teeth

N of Epilepsy you see are the same Apoplexy and no wonder they induce the same disease.

V In 1804 I was consulted by a Gentleman from Maryland who was one of three brothers who had been affected with it, and in the Spring of 1808 I was called to visit a Portuguese merchant, who informed me that five of his brothers & sisters were afflicted with it. In neither of these cases had the disease existed in the parents of those young persons.

Y It has been called a simulated disease, that is it has been dissembled, and from having been often so, it becomes at last habitual, & returns without the Concurrence of the Will.

3 Worms. Drinking cold water. Charity hospital
~~Indigestion, infants. Uterus.~~ The Mental
~~no mental cause~~
Causes. 1 Great excesses of the Understanding
2 Great excesses of the passions, ~~[illegible]~~ also
sudden emotions. These are chiefly joy, fear,
anger ~~[illegible]~~ joy & terror. Of 14 patients in Capitol
in the hospital at Vienna at one time
6 were affected ~~with~~ from terror. ~~In~~
Topliff's son. ~~3 sympathy~~ & mid. Sunder 1811; 3 mental sympathy.
~~Uterus~~
~~over hospital. 4 It is a congenial,~~
~~5 a filial disease.~~ It was produced from
this cause in a School at Harlem, & in the
Pennsylvania hospital. Six or seven patients
fell down with Epilepsy in the long ward in
our hospital upon seeing a man suddenly
affected with it. Perhaps horror assisted this
sympathy in producing the disease. The causes V
4, It is a congenial disease. Some children
are born with it.
5 It is hereditary. 6 It is a filial disease. VI

The fits of Epilepsy when once formed are renewed ~~by fa~~ by feeble exciting causes. The noise of a distant bell, and of a horse's foot excited it in two cases mentioned by Dr Cullen. It is often excited by obvious associations of ideas. A soldier who had deserted, and who was detected while drinking in a tavern fell down in a fit of Epilepsy. His fits recurred a long time afterwards every time he lifted a drug to his lips. A pregnant lady who stood so long under the hands of a man-mid-wife as to be very much debilitated was seized with Epilepsy. ~~The fit~~ The disease returned every time she saw her gown, or the man-mid-wife until after her delivery. Sauvage

mentions a case of a woman who fell down at a Church door with Epilepsy. Her disease returned every time she attempted to enter that door afterwards. A ~~no priest~~ Catholic priest ~~used~~ suspended the fits of this ~~Ireland~~ disease ~~for seven years~~ in a ~~protestant~~ man in Ireland by obtaining a promise from him that he would never again enter a protestant Church. At the end of 7 years he violated his promise and was instantly afflicted by a return of his disease. ~~But the~~ These associations of ideas I believe often take place in dreams, and this is perhaps another reason why the fits ~~often~~ occur oftener in the sleeping than in the waking state. There are I said

V whether corporeal or mental, act with Certainty, in proportion as they act suddenly.

+ convulsions in the internal parts of the body as well as the external, particularly in the pharynx, Oesophagus stomach, bowels, bladder, & seminal vesicles and to such a Degree in the last as to bring on an emission of semen.

formerly associations of motions in the ~~system~~ body, as well ~~of~~ as of ideas in the mind. These motions are associated by habit, and take place without, not only consciousness, but even without sensation. They are I believe likewise a frequent cause of the occurrence of paroxysms of Epilepsy. All these causes of Epilepsy

There are ~~of~~ different grades in the ~~fits~~ paroxysms of this Disease.

1 They are sometimes convulsions general & so violent according to Lomnius as to produce ~~an emission of~~ ~~human excrements~~ and according to Dr Short, to produce an effusion of blood from the extremities of the arteries upon the skin. The immense force of the disease may easily be conceived of from its destroying the pains of Childbearing. Of

this I have known an instance in this city in a lady who was delivered during a paroxysm of this disease. The mind in this form of Epilepsy is completely prostrated.

2 It appears with convulsions so moderate as not completely to prostrate the body nor alienate the mind. It appeared in this form in the celebrated Baron Swedenborg. Hence we read we was able to support himself upon his knees during his paroxysms. His visions took place in this ~~state Epileptic~~ state of his ~~state~~ Mind. The case I formerly read to you of a man in Connecticut who was said to have two souls, was a mild grade of Epilepsy, in which thought was nearly regular, and many actions performed with order, tho' forgotten afterwards.

V 3 There is a grade of Epilepsy ~~in~~ which is accompanied with ~~the~~ con-
-vulsions of a part or of all the limbs, but
without impairing in the smallest
Degree the senses or the mind. Does not
St Vitus's Dance belong to this grade of Epilepsy?

A disease of this kind which appeared
in Holland in the year 1373. It was
called "Melancholia Saltans". The
fits in this Country which lately
prevailed in the Western States was
a form of the same disease.

4 There is a grade of Epilepsy in which the mind is unimpaired which discovers itself by suddenly jumping, dancing, or running with great Velocity round a room. It is said the disease appears in the last way that I have mentioned in the Emperor of France. It is accompanied in these cases with profuse Sweats and succeeded by great fatigue. ~~The disease~~ Dr Crichton describes a

5 It appears in a form so feeble as only to induce faintness, with a short suspension of Speech and Walking. It seldom continues ~~more~~ longer than two or three minutes. I have seen an instance of it in a female Servant in my family.

6 It appears with convulsions, or what ~~are~~

are called Contortions in the muscles of the face, only without the least interruption of the relational exercises of the mind.

There is a grade of this disease related in the German Ephemerides in which the patient involuntarily revealed all that he did, said or thought the day before, without being attended with any bodily disease. I have called this a Convulsion in the Will in my introductory lecture upon the study of medical Jurisprudence.

Dissections exhibits ~~nearly~~ the same appearances in the brain of persons who die of Epilepsy as they do of apoplexy, and for an obvious reason, - they are ~~in death exactly~~ for the ~~most part the~~ same disease, and ought to produce the same effects, for the morbid appearances in the brain with a few exceptions

v of Water in the Medulla Spinalis after death from Epi'lepsy. Probably this was in ~~the~~ after those cases of Epilepsy that left the faculties of the mind in an unim=
=paired state. —

are I believe the effects, and not the causes of ~~the~~ either of those forms of disease. Coitus mentions the presence of

Dr. Johnson of Exeter tells us that he found ~~in~~ the arteries of a ~~body~~ boy who died of Epilepsy nearly full of blood, and very little in the veins. Take notice of this fact, & connect it with the fact mentioned by Drs Short of a person sweating blood in the first or highest grade of Epilepsy. They strongly mark a deep seated disease in the blood vessels. — ~~[illegible]~~

Before we proceed ~~to~~ ~~to~~ mention the Remedies for this disease, let us inquire into the operations of nature in it. Has it ever been cured by her, or by accidents, or by time? I answer it has by them all three. It will be useful to mention

these cures, as they serve to suggest principles to us that may lead to the choice of ~~proper~~ the medicines that are proper to imitate them. It has been cured

1 By puberty. ~~Of~~ of this I have known ~~two~~ two instances, one in a young lady of the State of Maryland, & one in a citizen of Phila.d ~~by the bey of it as in Bimorgan~~

2 By pregnancy and Childbearing. It was cured by this natural remedy in two of the sisters of the young gentleman from Portugal ~~who two~~ whom I visited in the year 1808. —

3 By a Change of Climate & residence.

4 By the hardships of a ~~Camp~~ camp life. - It was thus cured in Julius Cæsar.

5 By a long journey. It was ~~thus~~ cured in a lady of this city by a journey to the Natchez. In this case a Change of

I V Day a quarter fever. This is taken notice of by Hippocrates.

climate cooperated with ~~from the labor~~ the exercise of travelling. — 6 By a burn in consequence of the patients falling into the fire.

8 By Age. I have heard of several instances of its going off between the 50th & 60th years of life. ~~It~~ ceased at 21 in B. emergen.

Let us attend to the probable state of the System in ~~cases of~~ all the cases of cures that have been mentioned. Perhaps ~~but~~ medicine may imitate them and thus perform similar cures. —

The Remedies for Epilepsy divide them=selves into three heads.

I Such as are proper in its forming state.
II Such as are proper in the paroxysm.
III Such as are proper in the intervals of its paroxysms.

I The premonitory symptoms of this disease are a bitter taste in the mouth, ~~just before the~~ two or three days before a

fits, an enlargement of the pupils, false, or obscure vision, a tense pulse, tremors, of the head and limbs, - pain in the forefinger, head ache, pain in the right eye, with an inflammation of the tunica adnata - a peculiar odor in the breath, difficulty of swallowing, costiveness, a redness in the face, pains in the feet, a sudden sense of horror, such as is induced by the near approach of death, pimples upon the tongue, a trembling of the ~~upper~~ under lip, the aura epileptica, ~~or a~~ ~~creeping~~ resembling a creeping insect, or a fluid sensation arising from the extremities of the hands & feet & ascending towards the head, a swelling of the ~~parietal~~ veins on the forehead, singing, laughing, dancing & running, and lastly preternatural elevation of all the faculties of the mind. In this way it always appeared in the late Revd. Mr. Wales Professor of Divinity in the College of New Haven in Connecticut.

Most of these premonitory symptoms have occurred in my patients, or have

11

" been derived from sources upon which you may place the fullest reliance. ~~They They seldom occur in~~ But a few of the symptoms ever occur in any one patient, but all of them have occurred in different patients.

The Remedies in this forming state of a paroxysm of Epilepsy should be,

1 Bleeding when the pulse is tense, or when great fullness appears in the bloodvessels of the brain.

2 an Emetic. This is indicated when there is a bitter taste in the mouth.

3 Abstinence from animal food, and the sparing use of vegetables.

4 a gentle purge. It was often prevented in a patient of mind in whom it was preceded by a peculiar odor in the breath. The purge she took was Sulphur.

5 a Dose of Laudanum or Opium.

6 a Cup of the juice of Rue.

7 a table spoonful of Salt ~~fo~~ suffered to dis=
=solve in the mouth.

8 Keeping the mouth & teeth a part by a peice
of wood placed between them.

9 The smell of Sulphur.

10 Tobacco applied to the pit of the stomach.

11 Rubbing the hand upon the temples, or
forehead, and throwing the head backwards
against a wall.

12 Shaking the head rapidly.

13 Dashing a bucket of water over the head &
body.

13 Tying ligatures around the extremities, &
thus preventing the rising of the Aura Epilep=
=tica to the head, or cutting thro' the nerve ~~from~~ thro'
which it ~~is~~ sometimes ~~devised~~ passes to the head.

14 Rising suddenly out of bed when it is felt
coming on in the night.

15 Running.

16 Exciting fear. In this manner ~~the~~

of this remedy was suggested to the Dr. by its success in the hands of Dr Boerhaave in curing ~~this~~ the Epilepsy that appeared in the School at Harlem.

a fit was suspended by Dr Cullen for three weeks in the Infirmary of Edinr. The fear was induced by directing a piece of Iron to be heated red hot, and to mark the patient in the forehead with it, as soon as the fit made its appearance. The Use of Imposing Wakefulness upon the patient for one or two nights. In sleep & in bed when the body is a recumbent posture, the muscles become relaxed, that is they part with their excitement, but this excitement is not lost; — it ~~is~~ is translated to the Brain ~~blood vessels~~ in Epilepsy, as it is to the lungs in sleep and in a recumbent posture of ~~of~~ the body in Asthma, from whence it is distributed irregularly & convulsively thro every part of the body. The probability of this remedy being useful is supported by

the good effects of rising suddenly out of bed and running, and thereby throwing the excitement into the muscles, and thus preventing a paroxysm of Epilepsy. —

Were it necessary I could furnish you with facts in favor of the efficacy of all the remedies I have mentioned in forestalling paroxysms of this disease.

II. The Remedies proper to be administered during the fit are

1 Bleeding. This should be used in all cases where the pulse is tense, or when the con-vulsions are violent. It lessens its violence, and shortens its duration.

2 Fresh air, a loose collar, and but few persons near the patient.

3 Mustard to the feet. This likewise shor-tens the duration of the fit. It should not be used until after bleeding, or

III We come to mention the remedies that are proper in the intervals of the paroxysms. And here I shall first mention the remo=val of all its remote & existing causes — and particularly the extirpations of tumors, ~~etc~~ decayed teeth ~~and~~ &c. When they ~~have~~ are ~~been~~ supposed to produce them. ~~also~~ Dr Portal says he once ~~be Done~~ cured a Student of Me=dicine in whom it came on with a pain in the forefinger by dividing the radial nerve. Similar cases are related by Willis & Tissot where the disease originated in a similar way. When the disease arises from drying up old sores, or the stoppage of hæmorrhages, they should be opened & restored. Unfortunately from the force of habit, the removal of these remote causes does not always cure the disease.

13 until the force of the fit is somewhat abated. 4. Cold applications to the head. — 5 The elevation of the head & shoulders. V

~~III~~. In treating of the Remedies ~~of~~ that have been occasionally successful in the intervals of this disease, we have to lament that no notice is taken of the grade of the disease in which they have been prescribed. A medicine that will cure its milder grades, will have no effect upon its worst grades. I shall ~~now~~ first mention the Remedies proper in the worst grades that have been described. They are the opposites of each other, and yet they ultimately meet in a point. They are

I. ~~B~~ Such depleting Remedies as reduce the blood vessels, nerves and muscles below the point of morbid reaction. This has cured many diseases. The ~~opposite~~ remedies ~~for~~

V allusion to this remedy in the ~~17th Chapter~~ new
~~of Matthew~~ testament [Matth: 17. & 21.]
where our Saviour rebukes his disciples
for not ~~be~~ curing ~~the possession of a man~~ a case of this disease.
"Howbeit (says he) this kind going not out but by prayer & fasting". Whether we
admit the disease to be ~~a~~ from natural causes or from
Demoniacal influence, ~~as plainly indi-~~
~~cate that fasting~~ (for it is the same from each of
them) we are led to suppose that
fasting was one of the remedies in use
among the Jews to cure it.

which belong to this class are

1 Copious Bloodletting. I have twice cured it by this remedy in Children, nough? we surprized at it when we recollect that a Spontaneous hemorrhage has cured a yellow fever, that is, has so weakned the ~~[illegible]~~ bloodvessels as to prevent their reaction in a paroxysm of fever. Dr Brown mentions a Case being performed by bleeding persisted in until it brought on a dropsy. The blood in the highest ~~deg~~ grades of this dis-ease exhibits the usual marks of great morbid Action in the bloodvessels.

2 a reduced diet. Dr Cullen says more Cures have been performed by this remedy than by any Other. It must have been only cases attended with preternatural putrefaction of the bloodvessels. — There seems to be an

3 a milk diet. This acts in two ways, by its conveying no acrid stimulus into the system, and by the uniformity of its impression upon every part of the body. Dr Taylor an English physician was cured by it. He took a pint every morning and evening and a quart at noon. The Cow from which this milk was taken, I said formerly was fed wholly upon grass & hay. When she ate grain, her milk disagreed with him. The uniformity of the impression depended in this case upon the uniformity of the quantity of milk taken every day. The effects of climate in curing this disease, depends chiefly upon its uniformity, for in a disease in which the whole

system is exquisitely mobile, ~~the feebler~~ small impressions often produce great effects. Of the efficacy of a low and mild diet in preventing disease, the Brahmins in India furnish remarkable proofs. They escape the fevers which desolate European garrisons & settlements by living wholly upon Rice and simple water.

4 A Salivation. This revolutionary remedy was first used by Dr Hugh Smith of London. It acts 1 by depleting from the mouth, 2 by the abstinence which a sore mouth imposes upon the appetite, & 3 by the vicarious action in the mouth & ~~throat~~ instead of the brain. To be effectual, the salivation should be kept up six weeks. I have employed it with success, in ~~two~~ two, or perhaps, in three cases, but it has failed in my hands in many more cases, and in still more it has failed of producing

15

15 any action upon the salivary glands. Bleeding should always precede Our attempts to excite this mercurial disease. —

4 Cold applications to the head. Ice should be prepared when attainable for this purpose. It should be confined to the head by means of a bladder.

5 Sleeping in a sitting or inclined posture in order to prevent an undue determination of blood to the brain. I have employed this, & the preceding remedy with great advantage in the case of a Gentleman in Baltimore.

After the reduction of the System, or in cases in which this is not necessary the Remedies should be

II Tonics. These should be of so powerful a nature as to overcome the predisposing debility and mobility or excitability of the System. Their use is suggested by the

occasional cures that have been performed by nature by puberty, pregnancy, by the hardships of a Campaign, by a long journey, and by old age. all which impart tone or strength to the System, ~~by tracti~~ or dissipate its excitabi-lity ~~so~~ as to reduce it to a strictures state.

V Morgagni gave it with great advan-
-tage to a priest whose case he has de-
-scribed in Vol: I p 216.

The tonic remedies ~~the~~ employed in this disease ~~should~~ have been derived first from vegetables. I shall briefly mention them. ~~Lond~~ Mistletoe & ~~Lond~~ Bark, ~~Valerian~~ These have seldom done much service. Valerian has done good I believe only in the feeble degrees of this disease, - for it is a feeble stimulus. It acts chiefly upon the nervous system. Opium does good, but it is only when it induces a new action in the brain. - Dr Darwin cured convulsions by inducing delirium by means of this medicine, - and gives as a reason for it, that it is ~~better~~ safer to excite convulsion in the ideas, than to suffer it to exist in the muscles. Strammonium has cured two cases ~~also~~ in the hands of Dr Belcher, and are - prescribed by Dr Barton in our

v I have heard of the following Composition of which Stramonium is the principal ingredient having done service in this disease. Sem Stram ℥ij Opii ℥ij Castor ℥ss Camph: ℥ss Spirit ℞i - from 25 to 100 to be given 3 times a day.

Opium has been useful in this disease taken at bedtime so as to induce that easy and natural sleep which prevents jactation ~~and~~ on the one hand & snoring on the other.

hospital. Of 14 ~~patients~~ epileptic patients in the Stockholm royal Infirmary by it. 8 were cured, and five were relieved. To do good - it should be given until it induces giddiness. ~~and pass~~ Perhaps it would do more service - were it given till it induced stupor - or deep sleep. - ~~Dont be afraid~~ Recollect the opium the Drunkards have taught us, not to be too tender of the brain in exciting recondite actions. V

The next class of tonics should be a mineral. Chalybeates have suspend-ed the disease. Zinc from 2 to 36 grains in a Day has cured it, and where it has not - it has lessened the frequency of the fits. ~~but it b~~ The

Sulphate of Zinc in doses from 1 to 4 grains three times a day has done service. The Sulphate of Copper, & Cupreum Ammoniatum in doses from 1/4 to 2 grains 3 times a day have performed several Cures. The magistery of Bismuth & Arsenic have it is said been useful. There are ~~many~~ several well attested accounts of Cures being performed by the Nitrate of Silver in doses from 1/4 of a gr. to a grain, 3 times a day. Its use was suggested by a Cure ~~being~~ which took place in an epileptic patient that swallowed a piece of Silver in a fit. It lay 20 months in his Stomach, and was pushed up somewhat corroded and of a black color. Phosphorus has been given in this disease, but I

Epilepsy in Children

The ~~Lungs of lead~~ is not singular in yielding to medicines which have no effect upon the same disease in Adults. We see the same thing in pulmonary Consumption, and in fores of all kinds. It must be ascribed to the difference in predisposition and organization in those two stages of life.

cannot say with what success. I have ~~[illegible]~~ cured four or five persons under 13 years of age by the nitrate of lead, in doses from 1 to 2 grains 3 times a day. I was induced to ~~The~~ use ~~of~~ this medicine by having of an accidental cure of Epilepsy being effected by a man swallowing a spoonful of white lead instead of bicarbonate. I am sorry to add I have not found it equally successful in adults. It has however cured in one instance, and in another suspended the disease for many months. Its disagreeable effects upon the bowels, may be prevented by combining it with Opium.

To this head belongs the <u>Oil of Amber</u>. I have lately prescribed this

medicine ~~drops~~ with obvious success. It has suspended the fits in a young gent.n in this city above ~~of~~ 6 months. Wm Holmes. The dose sh.d be from 10 to 20 drops 3 times a day.

If the account I have given of the grades of this disease be correct, it will account for each of those remedies having sometimes cured, and at other times failed. The vegetable tonics succeeded probably in the cases in which a ~~public morbid action~~ moderate degree of debility only took place in the system, while the more powerful metallic tonics succeeded in ~~its higher grades of it which~~ cases ~~the~~ in which the debility and excitability were in a much higher degree. ~~I have described~~.

3 To the head of tonics belongs a cordial diet. It was ever suspended for six months in a celebrated painter in this city. He

There is a fact related in the 3rd vol. of the ~~med.~~ Annals of med. which forcibly shows the necessity of powerful tonics in some cases of this disease. 14 Soldiers in Canada were poisoned by eating a poisonous plant. One of them had been subject to Epilepsy – This man ~~was~~ was not affected till 3 hours after the other 13; & then in a much less degree than either of them – what was the cause of this? – His system ~~was~~ had been under the habitual Stimulus of his disease, & therefore felt less sensibly the Stimulus of the poisonous plant. Drunkards for the same reason feel the force of Bark & Bitters much less than Sober men in all ~~this~~ diseases.

had previously lived upon a low vegetable diet. Perhaps ~~this~~ the latter - prepared his system for the efficacy of the former.

4 I was once consulted by an epileptic patient whose fits occurred only on Sundays, and on holidays, on which days only ~~to~~ he ceased to labour. Does not this ~~suggest~~ suggest ~~the~~ that constant ~~and~~ labour might be employed with advantage in this disease? It would probably act as a substitute for ~~a~~ the hardships of a camp life. ~~[illegible]~~ V

What would be the effect of a high fever excited by artificial means in curing Epilepsy? We have heard of its curing apoplexy ~~&~~ palsy and ~~& I think lowness~~ ~~too~~ - madness. and in one case, epilepsy. — Perhaps the convulsions

In the use of all these tonic remedies, do not forget ~~the plants~~ that the disease is seated in the brain, blood vessels, muscles and nerves, and that it is necessary to reduce them to exactly the same degree of debility, ~~and to use~~ in order that the tonics may act with the same force upon each of them, or in other words to plant those systems. It is I believe from the neglect of this rule, that we so often fail of curing Epilepsy, and in some cases do harm by our medicines. The blood vessels shd be the first and principal objects of our attention in our endeavours to induce equality of debility in the systems, for they are in most cases of Epilepsy preternaturally excited. Not by under excise But again - I have said the disease is seated in the blood vessels,

which precede the eruption of the small pox, and some other forms of fever, are prevented ~~as yet~~ from becoming periodical and perpetual, only by the fever which follows them. Dr De la Roche ~~says~~ says he ~~imagined~~ saw a fever suspend the fits of Epilepsy for 22 months. In a disease which eludes experience, ~~nothing~~ and searching, even conjectures should be cherished, provided they afford the most distant prospect of affording a remedy for it.

What would be the effect of inspiring the patients with hopefulness when it discovers its premonitory signs? this disease, I shall ~~from~~ mention hereafter its good effects in preventing fits of Asthma ~~and of Cramps both of~~ which usually occurs in the night.

In Hays & in bed when the body is in

muscles & nerves. ~~Thus~~ An important Deduction should be made from this fact in the application of ~~our~~ tonic remedies. Let them be selected from those Articles of the materia medica which act at once upon all those three systems. I have known a mixture of Bark & Valerian to cure a head ach which had long resisted both those medicines when taken separately. They acted probably at ~~the~~ same time upon the blood vessels and brain. What would be the effects of the same medicines, with the addition of Asafoetida, or the oil of amber of them? I ~~[illegible]~~ barely suggest the hint to you. ~~Perhaps I cannot~~ But further — what would be the effect of lengthening the hours of sleep in this disease, & of rendering less profound, by advising sleeping constantly upon a matrass, or a floor, and thus to restrain the excitement of the muscles, so as to prevent its passing into the

= brain in the manner that has been mentioned? Ro.

In favor of this remedy recollect the fact of the Militia Officers who had kept for several months ~~in the~~ during the winter of 1776 upon bare floors on the frozen ground, in New Jersey ~~on~~ being seized with Consumptions as soon they laid down upon feather beds when they returned to their families.

Long journeys, in a hard going carriage, over rough roads, ~~long ride~~ and a change of climate have been found useful in this disease. It was recommended 18 months in a gentleman of this city by ~~residing~~ a residence in Great Britain & France. The climate resorted to should be an equable one. It is a rare disease in the West Indies - probably from the equable temperature of the weather in the Islands. A climate uniformly cold

V There ~~is~~ was a Surgical patient ~~was~~ a Sailor in our hospital in the winter of ~~Feb~~ 1811. who was seized with Epilepsy 6 years ~~old~~ before that time. While at Sea ~~is~~ he was perfectly free from his Disease - It returned as soon as he returned to the land. ~~Years spent at Sea might pay~~ ~~This remedy~~ Sailing acts as a tonic both upon the body & mind.

promises more benefit in it. see Leuffers fact: vol: 1 p: 445 Biblioth: Le

From the Accidental Cures that have been performed by ~~burns~~ patients falling in the fire & burning themselves, ~~from~~ physicians have been led to employ letters - issues & perpetual blisters in this disease. They have been useful in many cases. They are generally applied to the neck - and arms, but from ~~the~~ ~~in~~ the Ascent of the aura Epileptica being from the feet upwards, I would recommend their application to the lower extremities. ~~With these~~ ~~In addition to~~ the discharges ~~from other~~ are indicated when the disease has arisen from repelled humors from any part of the body. Perhaps the application ~~of~~

V I have lately heard of this disease being
a quack by covering superfly
cured by the whole body ~~being nearly covered~~
with Blisters. — It is said the Emperor
of France has been relieved by the
application of 20 blisters to different
parts of his body. The disease was in-
duced in him by a repelled eruption.

gentle irritants to the feet & ancles might be useful. I am disposed to recommend them from having read an account of its ~~having~~ being cured After continuing 25 years by a fit of the Gout in the feet.

Dr Waller speaks highly of the actual Cautery applied along the sagittal and coronary sutures — ~~and~~ also of Glysters of an infusion of Tobacco.

I have read an account of its having being been cured by the noise of church bells which produced a temporary deafness.

Dr Leuffer mentions two cures being performed by means of the itch. Perhaps the cure in these cases was effected by the irritation made upon the Skin by the plus usual

But there is another reason why I am disposed to think highly of those remedies which act upon the skin & the external senses, & that is they are nearly the only parts of the body which the disease leaves in a sound state, and of course in a condition to divide the force, or to carry off the disease. It is probably because the sympathies are unimpaired in this disease, that a salivation has cured it by attracting the whole disease to themselves, & thus conveying it out of the system.

As the stomach & bowels still retain their healthy actions, what would be the effect of strong emetics and

means of Scrathing. Recollect the law of Epidemics which explains this mode of accounting for the operation of this remedy. ~~The~~ ~~it~~ The itch is a disease of the Skin it must be communicated ~~only~~ ~~one~~ by contact & not by inoculation. p: 22 -

I have said the debility which pre=
=disposes to this disease is seated in the nerves, muscles & blood vessels. What would be the effect of combining medicines which act primarily & bodily upon each of these systems, and giving them in the ratio to their respective debility? Bark & valerian, united said formerly cured a headach which resisted each of them in a sepe=
=rate state. Perhaps the one acted upon the blood vessels & the other upon the nerves, in both of which the disease ~~was probably~~ is often seated.

~~proceed~~
certain mental
V ~~The mental~~ Remedies have some=
=times cured this disease whether by
accident or design. They are fear,
terror & horror. I spoke of the effects
of fear formerly. It will be difficult
to regulate ~~the~~ terror as a remedy, but
horror may be employed with more
safety. The drinking water with a toad
in it, eating a peice of human liver,
or taking a dose of the rasped powder
of a human Scull has sometimes
cured it. The commotions excited both
in the body & mind by these loathsome
substances I can easily conceive may
shake even the Epilepsy out of it.
I formerly ~~spo~~ mentioned the
~~ts of decayed teeth have cured it~~
good effects of some constant pursuit, or

= purges in order to attract the disease from the ~~debilitated~~ brain - muscles & nerves and thus to convey it out of the system?

V ~~Tremor of~~ In order to under any one, or all the remedies that have been mentioned effectual ~~that have been mentioned~~, all such of the ~~exciting~~ remote and exciting causes as ~~should be~~ are within our power should be removed. The extirpation of a tremor on the palm of the hand ~~has been cured it~~, ~~also the extirpation of a~~ ~~of the hand~~ ~~cured it~~. The following cases are generally incurable. 1 When the disease comes on before dentition in Infancy.

2 When it arises from lesions ~~or injuries~~ done to ~~done~~ the brain, or from causes seated in the brain.

3 It is most difficult of Cure when

=o business ~~to~~ in causing Hysteria. Considering how nearly ~~this disc~~ Epilepsy is related to it, I can=not help thinking ~~they~~ would have a salutary

effect when it arises from mental ~~Stimuli~~ see below - ~~Eff~~

Stimuli, such as violent emotions & passions of the mind. The reason of this is obvious. The seat of the Mind partakes in this case of the debility and excitability of the brain muscles & nerves. -

It is least dangerous when the Symp==toms of a paroxysm of the Disease are felt first in the hands - feet & side, - but most so when they are felt first in the head.

~~Eff~~ effect in in lessening its paroxysms or in curing it. Perhaps the Camp life cured Julius Cesar more by the constant exercise of his Mind upon great military Objects, than by the hardships it imposed upon him. It is to be lamented that most people who are

it is accompanied with vertigo. or headache in its intervals. — 4. It is seldom

I have thus just delivered to you all the important facts upon the causes — symptoms & Remedies for this disease that I am acquainted with. I have likewise suggested ~~delivered~~ ~~to you~~ ~~in your theory of it~~ several principles — by which you may class and apply these remedies.

I shall ~~briefly~~ recapitulate these principles in a few words.

1 Find out the grade of the disease, and suit the force of the remedies to it.

2 Plumb all the Systems in which the disease is seated.

3 Combine medicines that act at the same time upon all the Systems that are affected. —

o afflicted with this disease, give themselves up to indolence, and despair, or ~~exercise~~ employ themselves only in visiting physicians, or searching out for quack medicines to the entire neglect of business and labor.

return to V p46

V by Diffusing its predisposing

~~[illegible]~~ Debility into all the Systems we ~~render~~ prepare it more easily act upon by tonic remedies. —

and 5th. Try to excite a disease in the blood vessels ~~which~~ the action of which shall be more violent, or dissimilar from that which occurs in Epilepsy.

4 translate the disease if possible to those systems that are not affected by the disease — particularly the Skin, the stomach and the bowels. — Remember disease ~~is local~~ or morbid excitement is always local. By diffusing it thro' the whole body we first weaken it, and then convert it into health or ~~vigor~~ of life

The sands in my glass of life are ~~burning fast~~ running low. I shall probably not live to test by experiment the truth of the above principles. — But ~~this will~~ in the most feeble state of ~~life~~ old age, it will infuse ~~fresh vig~~ a temporary youthful vigor into my body & mind, to be told that the pernicious effects to Epilepsy has at last yeilded to medicine ~~under they~~ ~~the~~ by the aid of ~~Deadwood the pro~~ ~~on of any other~~

of those principles, or any others,
to the power of medicine.

It ~~cannot be~~ ~~it~~ is not, — it
cannot be an incurable disease,
especially to the analogy of all other
diseases, except in cases of ~~injuries~~
obstructions — tumors or
~~to the~~ permanent disorganization
~~disorganization~~ of the brain. ~~But it~~
~~In the mean while, let us by~~
In the mean while, while we are labou=
=ring to discover a radical cure for it, let us
continue to administer all the remedies y.t
have been mentioned, and by no means
abandon patients to the quacks or to dis=
=pair. The remedies will save the brain ~~from~~
~~disorga~~ mind from being disorganized ~~or~~
impaired, and thus prolong life under tole=
=rable circumstances, and that you know
I said formerly was the 2.nd ~~Duty of Lecture~~
~~of~~ part of the object of medicine. & of the duty of a
physician.